

exceedingly inconvenient, and would not conduce to the regularity or the shortening of debate, to engage in a discussion of the report.

Mr. DAVIN. Well, Mr. Speaker, if it is not in order, and if the Government side of the House are restive under the bringing out of these facts, I certainly shall not transgress against order to bring them out. I have read the report carefully, and what I find is this: There is evidence that the lodging of the men who went there, their protection against the weather, the precautions taken to preserve their health, were simply disgracefully insufficient, and above all that the remuneration was so arranged and the truck system was so carried out, that after the men had worked 12 months, they would not have \$5, although they had gone out there in order to be able to send money back to their families. All these things were of such a nature as to constitute a most glaring outrage on common justice and humanity. Some things have taken place at the Crow's Nest Pass which are not mentioned in this report, and the Government will have to go beyond that report. They will have not merely to take steps to guard against things of this kind in the future, but if possible to see that when valuable lives are lost in consequence of wrong-doing on the part of persons employed by this company, enfranchised and subsidized by this House, compensation must be given to the families of those persons who were injured.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. If the hon. Minister of the Interior, when speaking for the Government had taken the course I expected, it would not have been necessary for me to say a word concerning those saddest of all facts that have ever been mentioned in my time on the floor of the House of Commons in connection with the good government of Canada. The harrowing circumstances related by members behind the Government benches and by my colleague from the county of Pictou (Mr. Bell) are fully corroborated by Coroner Mead and the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver), who took such a very active and energetic part in endeavouring to move the authorities of this country to take immediate steps for the bringing to justice of the parties responsible for the atrocities that were committed. With these statements before him, with a full knowledge of the facts that were pressed upon the Department of Justice privately as well as by members in this House, with the knowledge that a notice of motion covering this subject was given as early as the 18th March, with the action taken subsequently by my colleague from Pictou (Mr. Bell), who on no less than two occasions drew the attention of the Government to this culpable or criminal negligence on the part of those connected with the death of these two men,

Mr. SPEAKER.

Macdonald and Fraser, employed on a public work subsidized by this Parliament, I did expect the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), confessing as he did that his own attention has been drawn to this subject, and his sympathy moved by documents that he had read, to announce that the Government would take prompt action and use all the resources and power at their command to probe this matter to the very bottom. Instead of that, he gave expression to doubts regarding the power of the Government. Although he has sat here ever since the subject was brought up, although those deaths occurred as far back as January last, although the facts were before the Government, although the Government knew that some one was trying to suppress information that would bring the guilty parties to justice, forsooth, the Minister of the Interior, on this 1st of June, raises doubts as to the power of the Government to interfere. The hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver) told us that all the comfort he got from the Department of Justice, when he pressed the matter on them in his well-known energetic manner, was the reply that it did not seem to be a matter pertaining to that department. I shall not go over the sad history of these cases. The facts have been mentioned by my colleague (Mr. Bell), and the hon. members for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) and Alberta (Mr. Oliver) have corroborated his statement. I shall, therefore, not deal with these facts, but there are others, which are not mentioned for the first time now, but which I deem it necessary to bring to the attention of the House in order that they may see why all these quirks and quibbles were brought to the front in connection with the administration of justice in the territory, and how it was that an injunction made abortive the coroner's inquest, attempted to be held at the outset, and at a time when it was possible to obtain all the facts, and certainly possible to obtain much more information than can now possibly be got in any shape or form. The coroner was prevented by an injunction from the court of the North-west Territories from holding an inquest simply because he had acted as a humanitarian, in his capacity of doctor of medicine, by attending the dying hours of this poor man. The fact that he had acted in this way was taken advantage of by some parties, and as we have been informed by the Minister of the Interior, the result was that the investigation he attempted to hold was frustrated by an injunction. At the same time, while these technical objections were being raised and the object of Dr. Mead was being frustrated, he was approached by parties connected with the employment of those two young men, who suggested to him that it would be more in his interest if he abstained altogether from following the matter up. When these parties were told by Dr. Mead